

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

*Burnstein*

Central Enteric Reference Laboratory and Bureau,  
Central Public Health Laboratory,  
Colindale Avenue, London, N.W.9.

5th November, 1956.

Dear Josh,

It was pleasant to have your letter and to hear a little of what is going on in the lab. I had seen your paper, and Norton's, on protoplasts and found them rather interesting. I also saw Skaar's paper and found myself still as sceptical as I was after the first reports of Jacobs and Wollman. I feel that J & W have made too much from what was a very limited experiment, and also that some of the methodology was rather messy. Still I, myself, am no longer doing E.coli work and maybe cannot fully judge.

I have looked up my records and found that, in fact, I did very little with WG 57. I can find no record of checking it serologically but think I must have done so. I did make a couple of auxotrophs from it and also attempted to make some F<sup>+</sup>; at one point towards the end of my records I find a note about two of these, W 2810 (Prol Cyst <sup>-</sup>) and W 2811 (Prol Succ <sup>-</sup>), saying "check antigens" but no record of the result. I'm sorry that I cannot help any further. I hope the Ørskovs have more success than Skaar, or myself, in keeping the strains smooth whilst producing, or obtaining, mutants.

At present I am marking time as we have become very short staffed and have to keep the routine going. I'm hoping to get going again shortly on my UV studies with Vi-phage. I do have a paper submitted to Virology, but have yet to iron out a few points with Luria concerning it.

Andy is away at present working in Lwoff's labs at the Pasteur. He's working with  $\lambda$ , I believe, and also trying to perform some DNA transductions with typhi.

P.T.O.

Clive says he will be writing to you himself shortly and  
send his best wishes.

Best wishes from Helen and myself to you and Esther and  
also to any of our old acquaintances around the lab.

Yours,

*Aleck*

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